

Docket No. 1999CH023PatentIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re new U.S. patent application of

Attn: Box PCT (DO/EO/US) #35
NERC

Georg SCHÖFBERGER, et al.

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Serial No. To Be Assigned

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Filed: March 15, 2002

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For: Lightfastness-Improvement of Dyeings of Aluminium Oxide Layers

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-9 of the Amended Sheets as follows:

1. Process for the production of dyed oxide layers on aluminium or aluminium alloys by dyeing in an aqueous dyebath, rinsing with water and sealing, where the dyeing is carried out using at least one water-soluble anionic dye (A) which possesses at least one substituent and/or component combination with a ligand character that is capable of forming a nickel complex with nickel ions, and the sealing is carried out by cold sealing with at least one sealing agent (B) containing nickel ions Ni^{2+} and fluoride ions F^- .
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2. Process according to Claim 1, where, for the sealing, a two-step sealing is carried out, in which, in the first step, cold sealing is carried out with at least one sealing agent (B), and in the second step, hot secondary sealing is carried out with water.
3. Process according to Claim 1, where the dyes (A) are dyes with which dyeings are produced on the oxide layers whose light fastness, determined in accordance with ISO specification No. 105 B02